ettettettettettet. Tristram of Blent.

Being An Episode in a Story of An Ancient House.

BY ANTHONY HOPE.

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Adelaide, wife of Sir Randolph Edge of Bient Hall, eloped with Captain Fitzhubert. Sir Randolph Geis in Russia, presumably in time for Lady Edge and Fitzhubert. Sir Randolph Geis in Russia, presumably in time for Lady Edge and Fitzhubert. Sir Randolph Geis in Russia, presumably in time for Lady Edge and Fitzhubert. Siven incorrectly and Harry is not the date of Sir Randolph's death has been given incorrectly and Harry is not the fightful heir. They keep the matter secretated when the fightful heir. They keep the matter secretand eventually Mrs. Pitzhubert succeeds the barrony of Tistram. O' Hall. Unknown to Lady Tristram Madam Zabriska, with her uncle, Major Duplay, come for Harry for the secret and Madam Zabriska. Which is the secreta had Madam Zabriska. Which is the secreta had been the fightful heir to Hient, but they determine to hold to tille for him at any cost. To further his cause he deedles to marry Janie Iver, heiress to Harry winning in a brisk tussie. Noted and they form a compact to protect Harry's interests and maintain secrecy. Lady Tristram des after extracting from her son a promise that Cecily Ga nahoritation. Cecily and her father comes underly under harry companies that Cecily Ga nahoritation. Cecily and her father comes to Hent, but Harry fails to receive them. Later he comes suddenly upon Cecily in the garden and realizes that she is a Tristram, the image of his mother. The he sicks way from Hent by night, stopping to advise flob Honout telling her this acknowledge and ways from Hent by night, stopping to advise flob Honout telling her this acknowledge is Lady Tristram of Blent. Then he sicks and the form of Blent in the properties of the comes underly upon companies that Cecily and with some telling her this acknowledge is a first trans, the image of his mother. The he sicks and the form of Blent in the properties of the companies of the properties of the companies of the companies of the comes underly because of the companies of the companies of the compa Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

CHAPTER XXII. An Insult to the Blood.

Harry threw his energies into the work both as a trial of his powers and as a safeguard against his thoughts. He went down to Blinkhampton and stayed a week; the result of his visit was a report which Iver showed to Southend with a very significant nod; even the mistakes in it, themselves inecitable from want of experience, were the errors of a large mind; the touch of dogmatism did not displease a man who valued self-confidence above all other qualities.

"The lad will do; he'll make his way," said Iver.

Southend smiled; lads who are equal to making their own way may go very far if contemplation for Harry.

colleague understood to be self-opinionated; nodded wise heads. there was a crisis in the church and a bishopric vacant. Lady Evenswood was of Robert would take—" the opinion that the least attempt to hurry Robert would be fatal. There were, after carry him all the way. Depend upon it, all, limits to the importance of Harry that's what he feels." Tristram's case, and Robert was likely, if worried, to state the fact with his own see." merciless vigor, and, with that, to say good-'dawdling" was Mina Zabriska and she were something exceedingly meritorious. have turned out well-one could never tell that it might be thought-" with Robert-but on the whole it was to be

What Lady Evenswood would not venture fully. fortune dared. Mina had been seeing sights -it was August now, a suitable month for the task-and one evening about 6:30 she James' park for a few moments' rest be- they were, you see. Mina." fore she faced the UnUderground. The place was very empty; the few people there asked Southend. saw two men walking slowly toward her before if they'd liked." from the direction of Westminster. One was tall and slight, handsome and dis- dently, tinguished in appearance; in the other she recognized the rugged, awkward man whom You mean in 1810?"

she heard the way for the Tristrams-legitimate and "Well, think it over. Try to see it in hand. The other took it and then turned cluded. away. The episode would have been worth good paragraph and a dozen conjectures understood, Mme. Zabriska?"

the pair stopped.

to a reporter. The handsome man was the "I suppose so. I've told you what self-opinionated colleague, and the words said." Mina had heard, were they not clear proof Disney stood stock still on the path, not

looking after his recalcitrant colleague. Southend. but down on the ground; his thoughts made him unconscious of things external. Mina glowed with excitement.

An artisan swung by, his tools over his back. Mina saw the suddenly awakened needn't pledge anything. We can just put attention with which his head turned to the case." She smiled thoughtfully. Disney. He slackened pace a moment, and then, after an apparent hesitation, lifted take it, you know." his cap. There was no sign that Disney saw him, save that he touched his hat in course." almost unconscious acknowledgment.

With a quick jerk of his head Disney began to walk on slowly. For an instant Zabriska?" Mina did not know what she would do. the fear and the attraction struggled. Then she jumped up and walked toward him. Her manner tried to assert that she had not noticed him. She was almost by him. gave a cough. He looked up. Would he know her? Would he remember askingno, directing-my lord, his secretary, to write to her, and had he read what she wrote? He was looking at her. She dared declared. a hurried little bow. He came to a standstill again.

'Yes, yes?" he said, questioningly. "Mme. Zabriska, Mr. Disney.

"Oh, yes." His voice sounded a little disappointed. "I met you at-" 'At Lady Evenswood's, Mr. Disney.

you wanted."
"What I wanted?" "Yes. What you wanted me to write

about-about the Tristrams." "Yes." The voice sounded now as

had placed her. He smiled a little. "1 remember it all now. I read it the other He nedded at her, as if that finished the matter. But Mina did not "I'm busy just now," he added, "but- Well, how's your side of the affair going on, Mme. Zabriska? I've heard nothing from my cousin about that." "It's just wonderful to see you like

this," the Imp blurted out. That amused him: she saw the twinkle "Never mind me. Tell me about

Tristram coustus. "I never tell what I'm thinking about.

clever. The cousins?" lieve they are-they would be-in love; but was in patent incongruity with Bink

understand-

to converse with the visitor.

fortnight's delay anyhow, and probably ence would it make? being told to do nothing in the end. So I

sometimes see Robert at dinner." "And he tells you things and you're indiscreet about them!" said Lady Evens-

'I believe Robert considers me as a sort of anteroom to publicity. And its so much easier to disown a wife than a journalist, isn't it. Mr. Tristram?" 'Naturally. The press have to

tend to believe one another," he said smil-"Though how they do it, my dear," mar-

Blent. Lady Evenswood encouraged Harry But he had it all clear enough before he would allow them to perceive that he un-We're a little quieter," she was saying. derstood. For, although his brain made The crisis is dormant and the bishop's easy work of it, his feelings demanded a made and Lord Hove has gone to consult pause. He was greatly surprised. He had the duke of Dexminster-which means a thought of no such a thing. What differ-

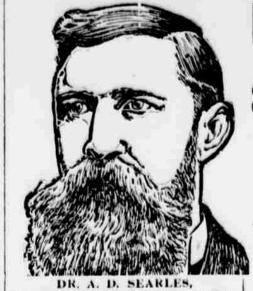
Southend was well satisfied with the way in which his overture was received. Lady Evenswood was watching intently.

'The idea is," said Harry slowly, "I mean-I don't quite gather what it is. You talk of my cousin, and then of a viscounty. The two go together, do they?"

'It was rather an awkward question put as bluntly as that." "Well, that did seem to be Mr. Disney's

view," said Southend. "He was thinking of the family-of the family as a whole. I'm sure you think of would never be a Tristram who did not, she who really thought of nothing. "Of course, as a thing purely personal to you, it might intended Harry to understand that without the marriage the thing could not be done

There was ground for hope; Harry hesttated-truth will out, even where it impairs the grandeur of men. The suggestion had its attractions; it touched the spring of the picturesque in him which Blinkhampton had left rusting in idleness. It suggested something in regard to Cecily, too, where it was he did not reason out very clearly at the moment. Anyhow, what was purposed would create a new situation and



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minister. The ending was pitiful-disgust- to have a bearing on the Tristram problem, ing and pitiful. She poured out her heart's too. bitterness to Major Duplay, who had come to visit her.

"I'm tired of the whole thing, and I hate the Tristrams," she declared. "It always comees to that in time, Mina, when you mix yourself up in people's

"Wasn't it through you that I began to The major declined to argue the question

one of some perplexity, perhaps. Well, I've got plenty to do in London. Let's give up Merrion and take rooms here." "Give up Merrion?" She was startled. But the reasons she assigned were prudential, "I've taken it till October and I

being here in August?" "You won't drop it yet, you see." easons did not deceive Duplay. "I don't think I ought to desert Cecily. suppose she'll go back to Blent. Oh, what

an exasperating man he is." "I think Harry Tristram as much of a fool as you do," Duplay said. "If he'd taken it he could have made a good match,

agreeable to you-" murmured Lady Evenswood gently. She was still very tentative "Cecily's just as bad. She's drawn into her shell. You don't know that way of hers -of theirs, I suppose it is, bother them. She's treating everybody and everything as

"She'll go back to Blent, I suppose?"

"If it's going begging, call on me," said the major equably. He was in a better a long while; his connection with Iver

Cecily has been told about the scheme and of entire unconcern. What was it to her if Queer?" He smiled as he consumed Harry were made a viscount, a duke or the tention was engrossed by the latter half pope? What was anything to her? She was going back to her father at Bient. The ing at the clothes of inexplicable origin. only animation sne displayed was in resenting the remainder and, indeed, denying the fact that she had ever been other than absolutely happy and contented at Blent. Mina pressed the point and Cecily then declared that now, at any rate, her conscience was at rest. She had tried to do what was right-at what sacrifice Mina knew. Now perhaps Mina could sympathize with her and could understand the sort of way in which cousin Harry received at-

> urged Cecily. Mina, who never meant to do anything else, embraced her friend and affectionately consented. It is always pleasant to do on entreaty what we might be driven to do un-

wood. That lady was very cheerful about Harry. She was, hardly with any disguise, an admirer of his conduct, and said that undoubtedly he had made a very favorable surd, too, because she had been trying to impression on Robert. She seemed to make He little of the desperate condition of affairs supposed Lady Flora woold do it now. as regarded Cecily. She was thinking of The idea was bitter. "If there were, do you think I'm Harry's cares, and that seemed to her very going to save my own pride by saddling promising. "Whatever he tries I think he'll Mr. Disney silent, too, and looking at her, the family with a nearly new viscounty?" succeed in," she said. That was not enough The next moment he spoke to the easy-His tones rose in indignation on the last for Mina. He must try Mina's thingssentence as he looked from one to the those she had set her heart on-before she could be content. "But you never brought Cecily to see me." Lady Evenswood complained. "And I'm just going away now." That was it, Mina decided. Lady Evens- a year older of course." wood had not seen Cecily. She had apquick, forward inclination of her body, proached the Tristram puzzle from one side only and had perceived but one aspect of it. friendship between Mr. Disney and the proved fully up to the task. She did not understand that it was complex youth. She credited Disney with more

"And Flora Disney has quite taken him up," Lady Evenswood pursued. sat laughing quietly. Even on Southend's tells me he's been to lunch there twice.

"What does Lady Flora Dirney want "Well, my dear, are you going to turn

round and say you don't understand why he "I don't see why he should interest Lady under rugged brows. Who was he and how Flora." Mina had already made up her did he come there? Harry heard Lady mind that she hated that sort of woman,

> into her net Harry Tristram also?" "And of course he's flattered. Any young man would be.' "I don't think he's improved since he left

wildness."

"Yes, he has. But it only comes out now and then. When it does-"It won't come out with Flora,"

Evenswood interrupted reassuringly. But another thirg was to happen before Mina went back to the valley of the Blent; a fearful, delightful thing. An astonishing alssive came-a card inviting her to disc with Mr. and Lady Flora Disney. She smacked you head " gasped as she read it; had Lady Flora ever The Imp cried—absolutely cried for vexa- it would have been when she was asked to "What does the bank say about Barill- ward Robert's caprices, even to the oldest tion—when a curt and sour note from send it. Gasping still, Mina telegraphed land. Theoretic caprices, even to the oldest tion—when a curt and sour note from send it. Gasping still, Mina telegraphed land. Theoretic caprices, even to the oldest for her best frock and all the jeweled tokens of affection which survived to testify tation. Away went al joy in her encounter to Adolf Zabriaka's love. It was in itself plain form. "You must give me a moment with Mr. Dieney, all pride in the skill with an infinitely great occasion, destined ai-

some Lord Hove, very resplendent in full dress, starred and ribboned. Several of the men were like that-there was some func tion later on, Mina learned from an easymannered youth who sat by her and seemed bored with the party. Disney came in late, Buffalo, N. Y., on sale May 15 to Sept. 30. in his usual indifferently fitting morning clothes, snatching an hour from the house, in the strongest contrast to the fair sumptuousness of his wife. He took a vacant chair two places from Mina and nodded at her in a friendly way. They were at a round table, and there were only a dozen there. The easy-mannered youth told her all about them, including several things which it is to be hoped were not true; he seemed to view them from an altitude of good-humored contempt. Mina discovered afterward that he was a cousin of Lady Flora's, and occupied a position in Messrs Coutts' bank. He chuckled once, remark-

instead of being pleasant to Tommy Hove Fact is, she hates Tommy, and she'd be glad if the chief would give him the boot. But the chief doesn't want to, because Tommy's well in at court, and the chief

"Why does Lady Flora hate Lord Hove He's very handsome."

"Think so? Well, I see so many fellows like that, that I'm beginnin' to hate 'em Like the sweet girl, don't you know? hear the chief thinks Tristram'll train on.

across at Harry. Harry was quite lively humor with the world than he had been for and deep in conversation with his hostess. "Well, they might put him in the House next but three? That's Gertrude Melrose; spends more on clothes than any woman in its lamentable end. Her attitude was one London and she's only got 1000 a year

"She must get into debt, said Mina, gaz "Gettin' in isn't the mystery," remarked

er-Zabrinska." He had taken a swif glance at Mina's card. Mina looked around. "Isn't it in this room they have the councils?" she asked. "Cabinets? Don't know. somewhere. I believe, anyhow." smothered a yawn. "Queer thing,

was known, you know, I shouldn't wonde if a lot of other fellows found themselves-He was interrupted, fortunately, per haps, in these speculations by a que alone for some minutes and set to work to observe the scene. She was tolerably ease now. Harry saw her sitting silent, an smiled across at her while he listened to Lady Flora. The smile seemed to comfrom a great way off. The longer she sat Mr. Disney." sense of difference and distance troubled Flora!" At this peremptory summens Lady her. She thought of Cecily alone at home and grew more troubled still. She felt abhelp Harry. If that had to be done, she

mannered youth.

doing?" "Same as last year, cousin Robert answered Theo cheerfully. "Government's him.

had-and liked him even better.

"The drawing rooms have kicked up already, I suppose?" "Oh, yes, rather, But the

sure. "Good. That's something. Banks against He brought her into the conversation al- from stating this upon oath,

wish to make her comfortable. too. Crops been pretty good, you know, and now the rain's comin' down nively.

most with tact, he must have had a strong

"Well, I ordered it," said Mr. Disney. "Takin' all the credit you can get." observed Theo. "Like the man who carved showing,

his name on the knife before he stabled his mother-in-law." 'What did he do that for?" cried Mins.

guffaw from Disney quite amazed her. Harry looked across with a surprised nir; he seemed to wonder that she should be air of authority, enjoying herself. Mina was annoyed and sensible. He hasn't inherited poor Addie's set herself to be merry; a glance from Madame Zabriska." Lady Fiora converted vexation into rage. She turned back to Theo, somehow Mr. Disney had taught her how to like him-often scious interiority. Lady Flora had smiled valuable lesson, if people would keep

their eyes open for it. "Everybody clas I've mot has been hor- that she must go back to Cecity. half whisper.

"Oh, you aren't in a funk of a man

Mina nodded approvingly. "What does the bank say about Barill-

paused in the act of drinking a glass of

to do the kickin'," said Theo.

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DR. W. S. BURKHART, Cincinnati, O. seemed much amused. Lord Hove had turned a little pink. Mina had a vague sense that serious things were being joked about. Harry had turned from his hostess

and was listening.

Everybody had become silent; Barililand had produced the question on which Lord Hove was supposed to be restive. Disney laughed and looked at his wife. She rose from the table. Mr. Disney had either learned what he wanted or had finished amusing himself. Mina did not know which; no more, oddly enough, did Lord Hove, Mr. Disney was by the door, saying goodby to the ladies; he would not be comfrom his other neighbor. Mina was left ing to the drawing room. He stopped Mina, who went out last, just before his wife. "We've done all we could, Mme. Za-briska," he said. "We must leave him

> "I'm afraid so. You've been very kind, "Better as it is, I fancy. Now then,

quisition, and hoped to see a great deal of A gentle motion of Lady Flora's fan was detected an unexpected, but pleasant, left to define Cecily more exactly, and

ever saw!" cried Mina. "Resound out of Chelsea, wasn't she?" out asked Lady Flora. "Poor thing! One's so sorry for her. When her mourning's over we must get her out. I do hope she's some-

"I think whe's ever so much nicer than drawing rooms for me, Madame Zabriaku. Mr. Tristram." Mina would have shrunk

"He interests me enormously, and it's so

clous cordinity which his wife was now

"O, of course, it won't look like that that-just like it. She chafed under conat being thought to need such a reminder,

ribly afraid of Mr. Disney," she said in a "O, poor girl, I quite forgot her! You're going back to Blent with her, I suppose?

(To be Continued.)

veled Lady Evenswood, "is what I don't that, too," urged Lady Evenswood. There understand. "I know nothing about them," Lady was thinking. Well, except Addie, perhaps, Flora declared. "And they know nothing about me. They stop at my gowns, you know, and even then they always confuse but just a little difficult." She meant and me with Gertrude Melrose." "I hope that stops at the gown, too?" observed Southend. "The hair does it, I think. She buys hers at the same shop as I. Now what do I "If you stop me any longer I shall send | do, Mr. Tristram? "You, Lady Flora? You know the shop. and Southend. If I didn't do my business is that enough?" better than you do yours—" He shrugged "Yes, or—well. "Yes, or-well, no. I supplement there. I declare I won't walt any longer for Rob-"He won't come now," said Lady Evens-The next day he found her at Lady wood. "Is the bishop nice, my dear?"



She was always inclined to think that "He fears that the Bearsdale case won't

"Well, there was the doubt there, you Mina was rather tired of this doubt in by to the whole affair. The only person the Bearsdale case. It was always crop-

"And in poor Addie's case, of course To make such an opportunity for her was there-well, there wasn't," proceeded Lady too hazardous an experiment; it might Evenswood with a sigh. "So Robert feels

> "The people with consciences would be at him, I suppose," said Southend, scorn

"Do you think he means the

"But if the marriage came off-"Oh, I see!" cried the Imp. "Then he would feel able to act. It would landed her weary bones on a seat in St. look merely like putting things back as

lay for the most part asleep-workmen "It would be so much more convenient. with the day's labor done. Presently she And they would have had an earldom once

"Oh, twice," corrected Southend, confi

"I know it's said, but I don't believe she had met at Lady Evenswood's. He "Oh, dear me!" murmured the Imp. was talking hard, hitting his fist into the This historical inquiry was neither compalm of his other hand sometimes. The prehensible nor interesting. But they dishandsome man listened with deference, but cussed it eagerly for some minutes before frowned and seemed troubled. Suddenly agreeing that, wherever the truth lay, a hands.

proper Tristrams, be it understood. "And that's where the match would be must have suffered interruption; she could that light," said Disney, holding out his of decisive value," Lady Evenswood con- excuse her interference on the ground of

"Disney said as much evidently. So

"He would take Blentmouth, you know. It's all very simple."

"We must give him a hint, George "Have we enough to go upon? Suppose Disney turned round and-' "Robert wouldn't do that. Beside

"Well, then, what's to be done," asked

still not quite sure how Mr. Tristram will "How he'll take it? He'll jump at it, of vaguely.

"The girl or the title, George?" "Well, both together. Won't he, Mme. Mina thought great things of the girl and even greater, if vaguer, of the title. "I should just think so," she replied,

omplacently. There was a limit to the perversity, even of the Tristrams. "We musn't put it too boldly," observed Southend, dangling his eyeglasses. "Oh, he'll think more of the thing itself

than of how we put it," Lady Evenswood From her knowledge of Harry the was exactly of that opinion. Harry Tristram returned from Blinkhampton in a state of intellectual satisfaction, marred by a sense of emotional emptiness. He had been very active, very energetic, very successful. He had new count. This was the good side.

Taking courage, she added. "I sent what and cogent evidence of his power not merely are means of righting such injustices as to start, but to go ahead on his own acdiscovered and tried to rebuke in himself a feeling that he had so far wasted the time in that he had seen nobody and nothing beautiful. He traced it back to Blent. Yet the old life at Blent would not have served by itself now. Was he to turn out so exacting that he must have both lives before he, or what was in him could cry, 'content?" A man will sometimes be alarmed when he realizes what he wants-

So, he came in obedience to Lady Evens wood's summons, very confident but rather somber. When he arrived a woman was there whom he did not know. He was introduced to Lady Flora Disney and found himself regarded with unmistakable interest and lurking amusement. It was no effort to remember that Mr. Disney had married That's the only reason people think me a daughter of Lord Bewdley's. That was enough: just as he knew all about her, she would know all about him. This again

HARRY WAS THERE AND SEATED AT LADY FLORA'S LEFT. they are given such a start as he had in Evenswood's. The old lady and Southend | "Oh, yes! Quite plump and galtery, put him in a different position toward her. Mr. Disney had given no sign yet. There (who had been summoned on Mina's com- Goodby, dear cousin Sylvia. I wish you'd In brief, he would have something more on Mr. Disney had given no sign yet. There mand—certainly Mina was getting up in come and see me, Mr. Tristram," Harry, his side. "Once the world understood perfectly. They making his little bow, declared that he "Once

would be delighted. "I like to see young men sometimes," observed the lady, retreating. "The new style," Lady Evenswood Harry. summed up, as the door closed. "And— But

well, I suppose Robert likes it." "Dissimilia dissimilibus," shrugged Southend, fixing his glasses. "It's the only concession to appearances said: he ever made," sighed Lady Evenswood.

"Oh, yes! That's what makes it so funny. If she weren't-" "Yes, it would all be natural enough. "But we've been wasting your time, Mr.

Tristram."

protested Harry, who had both enjoyed and learned. "No. really I think not." she agreed. smiling. "Flora has her power." The remark grated on him; he wanted nothing of Flora and her power; it was indeed rather an unfortunate introduction name?" he asked. to the business of the afternoon; it pointed

with a quick perception, tried to retrieve the observation. "But she likes people who are independent best," she went on. "So does Robert, with glee.

if it comes to that. Indeed he never does "Carries that too far, in my opinion, commented Southend. The moment for di-

plomacy approached. But when it came to the point Lady enswood suavely took the task out of his Her instinct told her that she viscounty could not be considered out of could do it best; he soon came to agree. She had that delicacy which he desired but lacked; she could claim silence when he friendship. Above all, she could be elusively lucid and make herself understood without bluntness of statement. "If it could be so managed that the whole miserable

accident should be blotted out and forgotten!" she exclaimed, as though she im plored a personal favor. "How can that be?" asked Harry. was in, and I am out, Lady Evenswood." "You're out and your cousin's in, yes, Harry's eyes noted the words and dwelt

on her face. "She can't be happy in that state of affairs, either." "Perhaps not," he admitted. "Facts are facts, though." "There are ways-ways of

that," Southend interposed, murmuring "I don't know how you'll feel about it but we all think you ought to consider other things besides your personal preferences. Might I tell Mr. Disney-No. one moment, please. Our idea, I mean, was that there might be a family arrangement. A mement, please, Mr. Tristram! I don't mean by which she would lose what she has.

But if snything were to happen-"Nothing could," Harry restrained him-

self no longer. "There can be no question "I knew you'd feel like that. cause you feel like that I want to make the other suggestion to you. I'm not speaking idly. I have my warrant, Mr. Tristram! If-" She was at a loss for a mo-"If you ever went back to Blent," ment. she continued, not satisfied, but driven to some form of words, "it isn't inevitable that you should go as Mr. Tristram. There

She cast a despairing glance at Southend. which he had advocated. He took up the task with a brisk directness. "It's like this, Harry. You remember

that the unsuccessful claimant in the Bearsdale case got a barony? That's our precedent. But it's felt not to go quite all the way, because there was a doubt there. But it is felt that in the event of the two branches of your family being united it would be proper to-to obliterate past-er -incidents. And that could be done by raising you to the peerage, under a new and, as we hope, a superior title. We believe Mr. Disney would, under the circumstances I have suggested, be prepared to recommend a viscounty, and that there would prove to be no difficulties in the

about the matter, and still watchful of But Southend was not cautious, or did not read his man well. To him the battle seemed to be won. He was assured in his manner and decidedly triumphant as he

with all difficulty about the name, you Harry looked up sharply. Had Mr. Disney been "screwed up?" screwed him up-by what warrant-on whose commission? That was enough to make him glower and to bring back something of the old-time look of suspicion to

of Southend's ill-advised bit of jubilation. "The name? The difficulty about the "If it had been a barony. Well, hers Harry's quills a little. Lady Evenswood, would take precedence, of course. the higher degree yours will come first

his face. But the greater part of his at-

and her barony become merged-Viscount He chuckled Blentmouth, eh, Harry?" "Viscount Blentmouth be hanged!" cried Harry. He mastered himself with an ef-"I beg your pardon, Lady Evenswood, and I'm much obliged to you, and to tempts to help him. On this point they you, too, Lord Southend, for-for screwing Mr. Disney up. It's not a thing I could or should have done, or tried to do, for myself." In spite of attempted calmness his voice grew a little louder. "I want noth-

ing but what's my own. If nothing's my own, well and good. I can wait till I make something." "But, my dear Harry!" began the dis-

comfitted Southend. Harry cut him short, breaking again into impetuous speech. "There's nothing between my cousin and me. There's no question of marriage and seemed to gather himself up for a flight of the family with a peastly new viscounty?

"Viscount Blentmouth, indeed!" Southend's hands were out before him signal of bewildered distress. Evenswood looked at Harry, then, with a

passed him, and she began to laugh. "Thank you very much, but I've very fine fume and feeling he had been nor Cectly, but Harry and Cectly. much insulted. Still looking past him, Lady Evenswood

face came an uneasy smile, as he, too, George is a terrible gossip." looked toward the door. After a moment's furious staring at the two Harry faced him?" round. The door had been softly and noiselessly opened to the extent of a couple of feet. A man stood in the doorway, tugging interests women?" at a ragged beard, and with eyes twinkling Evenswood's laughter; he heard her murmur to herself, with an accent of pleasure. "A beastly new viscounty!" then the man

"That's exactly what I think about it Mr. Tristram. I've heard what you said, and I agree with you. There's an end, then, Southend grew weary of the diplomacy of the beastly new viscounty!" He looked mockingly at Southend. "I've been screwed up all for nothing, it seems," said he. Why, you're-"Let me introduce myself, Mr. Tristram

in the doorway came a little farther in, say-

is Disney. I intend to keep mine and know better than to try and alter yours." "I thought it would end like this!" cried Lady Evenswood. "Shan't we say that it begins like this?" asked Mr. Disney. His look at Harry was a compliment.

came to look for my wife, and my name

Decree of Banishment. The Imp cried-absolutely cried for vexa-Southend told her the issue. The struck down her excitement and her exul--but-Mr. Tristram's so difficult, so ob- hampton and smelt worfully strong of to follow that out," he said, with a smile. which she had negotiated with the prime ways to foom large in memory, but it proved

can't afford to. Besides, what's the use of

"Flora's talking to Tristram all the time anyhow, even if he didn't get Lady Tris-

if they didn't exist."

"Well, she must. Somebody must have

promised well. But Mina sniffed scornfully; she was in no mood for idealists.

drew together again. "You must come back to Merrion, dear,

asked. Goodby had to be said to Lady Evens

Tristram of Blent," ended Harry, now in a and double-headed. It was neither Harry manity-the humor necessary she knew

It was bad enough to have captured Mr. Disney; must the insatiate creature draw

"Country folks always say that about their young men when they come to town," smiled Lady Evenswood. "He's learning his world, my dear. And he seems very

For Harry was there. He sat on the hostess' left; on her other side was hand-

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"That's what it comes to," concluded

alone, ch?"

Flora left Theo, by whom she had halted, and followed Mina through the door. Two of the women left directly, The other two went off into a corner. hostess sat down and talked to her. Lady Flora was not distant, and did not make Mina feel an outsider. The fault was the other way. She was confidential-and about Harry. She assumed an intimacy with him equal, or more than equal, to Mina's own. She even told Mina things about him. She said "we" thought him an enormous ac-

"She's the most faccinating creature I

soldom I like Robert's young men." So he was to be Robert's young man, too. should say you're all right in the country. The thing grew worse and worse. Almost she hated her idol, Mr. Disney. Personal lealously and lealousy for Cecity blinded her to his merits, much more to the gra-

> "Yes. I'm sure we shall make something of Harry Tristram." "He doesn't like things done for him." Mina declared. She meant to show how very well she knew him, and spoke with an

Now, the Imp's efforts had looked like Able to endure no more, the Imp declared

Do come and see us when you're in town again. Was there or was there not, the That seemed a cetter paradox than most. slightest algh as she turned away, a sigh that speaker of duty nobly done? Even toward Rahert's caprices, even to the oldest coming hearing. And in the end this little Madame Zabriska had rather amused her; she was funny with her air of ownership about Harry Tristram.